THE EMPEROUR And the EMPIRE BETRAY'D: By Whom and How.

Written by a Minister of State residing at that Court, to one of the Protestant Princes of the Empire.

Published for the satisfaction of all good Protestants.

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TO THE READER.

THE extraordinary Conduct of the Imperial Court and Council for some years past, having rais'd the Curiosity of a great Prince of the Empire, to find out at any rate the true Causes and Grounds of Counsels and Actions that had so much surprized him, he made choice of a Minister whom he judged best capable to execute this Design, and having given

him Instructions for the purpose, dispatched him privately under other pretences to the Emperours Court at Prague. *The Minister acquitted himself well, and gave his Master an ample account of his Business by Letter, of the* 13. *of* February *last. The Master (a right German, and truly generous Prince) laid his Commands on me to publish those important Secrets, the value whereof will soon appear by the reading, from which I will no longer detain you.*

Farewell.

THE EMPEROUR AND THE EMPIRE Betrayed. AND By Whom, and How.

In a LETTER.

My Lord,

'TIS the duty of a Servant not to conceal any thing from his Prince and Master, especially when he is pleased to

honour him with his Confidence, as your Highneſs hath done in ſending me to this Court: To clear my ſelf from the Guilt and Reproach of having been wanting to this Duty, I take the liberty to give your Highneſs a faithful and candid account in Writing; what I have diſcovered moſt pertinent and Eſſential to the buſineſs, you were pleaſed to employ me in. I ſhall do it with the leſs ſcruple and reſerve, having ſent this Letter by an Expreſs, in whom I have entire Confidence, and doubt not but he will, according to my order, deliver it into your Hands.

To begin with the beſt part of what I have to deliver. I am to inform your Highneſs, that His Imperial Majeſty is, in my Opinion, a pious Prince, good natured, and of a ſweet and gentle Diſpoſition, and not at all inclined

ned to contend with the Princes his Neighbours, or make War on his Inferiors: That, pursuant to this natural Inclination for Repose and for Peace, this Prince hath an Antipathy against any thing that disturbs or opposes his quiet Disposition, and hath eased himself wholly of the management and direction of his Affairs of State, and of War, by committing all to the Conduct of his principal Ministers. 'Tis hard for a Prince to intrust a Minister with Affairs of this mighty Importance, without opening to him all his Mind, and imparting the greatest and deepest of his Secrets: And from hence, I believe, it hath unhappily followed that this Prince, having by degrees accustomed himself to leave the greatest part of his Affairs to the Conduct of his Ministers, hath reserved to himself only the Title

and Pomp, the Splendour and Name of the Dignities and Grandeur proper to his Character. In a Word, had his Imperial Majesty never so little minded his great Affairs, he would never have yielded to Sign that shameful and ignominious Peace with *France*, subscribed by the Imperial Embassadours at the Congress at *Nimiguen*; the unhappy Effects whereof we have seen in seven Particulars of great importance.

First, His Imperial Majesty, by those few strokes of his Pen, hath in all probability, lost for ever the Esteem, the Friendship and Confidence of the Princes his Friends and Allyes; who would have generously defended and preserved him from ruine, by the force of their Arms.

Secondly, That his own Troops have been shamefully forced to quit all the Countries of the Empire,

pire, while those of *France* have been actually there, and continue to this day insulting and domineering as they please over the Princes, the Cities, the Countries and Provinces of the Empire.

Thirdly, That by the Execution of this Peace, the Estates, the Persons and the Courts of the three Ecclesiastical Electors of the Empire, and of the Elector *Palatine* of the *Rhine*, stand in a manner expos'd every hour to the violences and irruptions of the Arms of *France*; and consequently, in case of an Election of a King of the *Romans*, we may probably find by their Suffrages what may be expected from Slaves to that proud and ambitious Crown.

Fourthly, That his Imperial Majesty having by that Peace tacitely consented to the late Cessi-

on made by *Spain* of the County of *Burgundy* to the Crown of *France:* It follows, that if His Imperial Majesty, (in Case of failure of Issue in the House of *Spain*) should in his own Right, or in the Right of the Arch-Dutchess his Daughter, the Heir to the Estates of that Monarchy, he hath by that Article of the County of *Burgundy*, released his Right to it, and deprived his Successors, and the Empire of the Convenience that Country might upon a favourable Revolution have afforded them to lead an Army without opposition into the heart of *France:* And should *Lorrain* be ever restored to the Empire, yet this Article will be an infallible means for *France* to maintain continually an Army on the Frontiers of *Germany*, and invade it as often as it shall appear to be for the Interest and Gran-

Grandeur of the *French* to attack the *Germans*.

Fifthly, That though *Swizzerland* be throughly convinced by the building the Fortreſs of *Hunninges*, of the Ambitious deſigns of *France*, and conſequently concerned and inclined to make a League with all, or part of the Princes of the Empire, in defence of the Common Liberty; yet the unfortunate Seſſion of the County of *Burgundy* hath furniſhed the Penſioners of *France*, (whom no Counſel, or Caution of that Republick is free from) with a plauſible argument, to perſwade that Republick not to ſtir in its own defence, till it be perhaps too late, and out of its power to help it ſelf: For, ſay they, What ſhall we do? The *Cantons* of *Bern*, *Fribourgh* and *Sollurre* cannot ſubſiſt without the Salt

of that Province: Beſides, the Forces his moſt Chriſtian Majeſty keeps actually on Foot there, may juſtly alarm us to be cautious to the utmoſt, what meaſures we take, and conſider all things before we ingage in any: By ſuch diſcourſes as theſe (though groundleſs, if we ſuppoſe an Union of the Forces of the Empire with the *Swiſſe*, which would infallibly draw in many more) it may fall out that this Republick (if the loweſt party prevail not againſt thoſe Traytors to their Country) may to its own miſchief, and the ruin of others, lye ſtill and look on, as unconcerned; and conſequently be a Member wholly uſeleſs to the Publick, for defence of the Common Liberty, which would be in the preſent Conjuncture of more miſchievous Conſequence than moſt are aware of.

Sixth-

Sixthly, That by this peace the Duke of *Lorrain*, who hath had the honour to *Marry* a great Queen, eldeſt Siſter to his Imperial Majeſty, hath found as little reſpect in this Peace, as if he had married the Daughter of a *Burgo-Maſter* of *Colmar*; and hath been violently robb'd, and intirely diſpoſſeſt of his Dukedoms of *Lorrain* and *Bar*, and ſeveral other Lands, he held in Soveraignty, being his Hereditary Eſtates, and deſcended to him by unqueſtionable right of Succeſſion: Which others looked on with ſo little concern, as if this Prince (ſtript of all he could call his own) had loſt no more than a Ring, or a Farm of a thouſand Crowns value.

Seventhly, That his Imperial Majeſty, and the Empire, by Signing a Peace (to give it its right Name) ſo unbecoming and

unworthy, have raiſed the courage and hopes of the moſt Chriſtian King to that height that he looks on both with ſo much indifference and ſcorn that he hath openly undertaken at once three things, which (I believe) were never heard of in the Empire, at leaſt when it had the advantage of a Head that had the leaſt jealouſie and care for its Glory.

The firſt, that without any Lawful Miſſion, the Emperor being young, and in perfect Health he ſolicits vigorouſly the two Electors of the North ſide of the Empire, for the Suffrage at the next Election of a King by the *Romans*. I mention only theſe two Electors, for as for the others, he makes no doubt by fair means or by force to diſpoſe of them at he ſhall think fit.

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The ſecond, that, as if he were dealing only with the Farmers of his Revenues, or the Poyſoners of *Paris*, he hath by a Declaration erected at *Metz* (as formerly at *Briſak*) a Court compos'd according to the courſe of that Kingdom, of a dozen Hangm——where though the ſmalleſt Duke and Peer of *France*, is not obliged to appear; His moſt Chriſtian Majeſty, as Judge and Party, cites by ſome Catchpole of that *Clandeſtine* Juriſdiction, Princes of the moſt ancient Illuſtrious Houſes of the Empire (which he hath nothing to do withall) to make their appearance, to give him Account by what Right they poſſeſs what their Predeceſſors have for three or four hundred Years peaceably enjoyed: This invention, with the help of the Knight of the Poſt, and a Map of the

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Country drawn out at pleasure, (but of the old fashion, the better to colour the business) is the ground of his pretensions, that the greatest part of *Lorrain*, the whole Dukedom of *Deuxponts*, and the best part of *Alsatia*, as far as *Lauterbourgh*, are ancient Dependencies of the Bishopricks of *Metz*, *Toul*, and *Verdun*, and must consequently be re-united to the Demeans of that Crown with as much ease, as the Lands of some wretched Treasurers of *France* have been resumed by his Majesty.

The third is, that to the end his new Paper-pretences, may be as effectual as the right of devolution of the low Countries in 1667 and 1668. He hath upon the Frontiers on this side considerable Forces in readiness to Execute the Reunion, or rather, under that pretence, to do what he

he ſhall think fit in the Empire; when all this while, neither his Imperial Majeſty, nor any Prince of the Empire dares openly ſtir. As if what hath already been done to the Duke of *Lorrain*, and other Princes and Cities of the Empire in *Alſatia*, were not only a certain preſage, but an unqueſtionable Preſident, whereby all other Princes and States of the Empire, of what quality and degree ſoever, may clearly ſee the Fortune of thoſe Princes and States, who have the misfortune to hold of that Crown, or be Neighbours to its Dominions: The conſequences that naturally follow ſo untoward, and ſo unhappy a State of Affairs will oblige us to Conclude; Woe to his Imperial Majeſty, if he do not wholly alter his Conduct, and God grant I ſpeak not prophetically and truly, as *Micajah* when

when I ſay His Imperial Majeſty will dearly rue his truſting his Council, with the direction and management of Affairs of this Nature: And wo to His Imperial Majeſty and the Empire, they ever ſigned that falſe and fatal Peace, whereby both will naturally fall (unleſs God by ſpecial interpoſition prevent it) under the ſlavery of that abſolute, and deſpotical Dominion. Yet I would not be thought to be of Opinion, that if all His Imperial Majeſty's Council were ſuch as it ought to be, Affairs would be in that ill condition we find them; but the greater part of that Council being weak or corrupted, as I dare ſay it is, we are not to doubt, but if it continues, things will ſtill grow worſe and worſe: I have been bold to ſay, the greater part of the Imperial Council is Weak or Corrupt:

And

And to make my words good, I will proceed by degrees from ſmaller matters to thoſe of greateſt importance, to prove what I affirm by unqueſtionable Inſtances.

The Firſt *Inſtance.*

Commiſſary General *Capellier* ſurpriz'd the Steward of his Houſe in the very act of Traiterous Correſpondence with the Miniſter of *France*, to whom he gave an exact Account of all he could diſcover at his Maſter's Houſe. The Letters he ſent to the *French* Miniſter and thoſe he received from him were ſeized at the Imperial Poſt Office at *Frankfort*: And though this happened in the heat of the War between the two Nations, and the Traitor upon diſcovery of the matter was arreſted, and carried to *Philipsbourgh*, &

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from thence to *Vienna*, yet he (a Fellow worth nothing) found at Court ſuch powerful ſupport, that he was ſet at Liberty, and cleared as a gallant Perſon.

The ſecond *Inſtance*.

The Siege of *Philipsbourg*, being form'd by the Imperial Troops and thoſe of the Circles, and the place ſo much ſtraitned that they began to want Powder in the Town, two Brothers, Burgeſſes of *Franckfort*, corrupted by a *French* Miniſter, undertook to buy ſeveral Waggon Loads of Powder in the Empire, and to conveigh them into *Philipsbourg* with other Ammunition. But the Convoy for executing the Deſign having been ſurprized by the Imperialiſts, and one of the Rogues taken and ſent to *Vienna*, he was not long there but he was

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ſet at liberty as a very honeſt Fellow.

The third *Inſtance*.

He that commanded in *Fribourgh*, when taken by Marſhal *Crequi*, could not deny himſelf notoriouſly guilty of Cowardice, or Treaſon; being arreſted for his Crimes, and carried firſt to *Inſpruck*, and thence to *Vienna*: he was look'd upon as a Sacrifice, neceſſary to be offer'd to expiate ſo hainous an offence againſt Equity, Policy, and the Diſcipline of War; but becauſe he was related to a principal Miniſter, or rather becauſe a Great One was afraid he might (if put hard to it) make ſome diſcoveries: He was fully acquitted, and cleared from all that was laid to his charge; and in ſuch a manner, that he retired home as confident, and

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unconcerned, as ever the *French* Governour of *Phillipsbourgh* could have done, after the generous defence he made of the Poſt he commanded.

The Fourth *Inſtance.*

The Duke of *Saxe Eiſnach* having had the Command of a little Army on the *Rhine*, being an active and brave Prince, neglected not any thing that might conduce to the worthy diſcharging the Duty of his place; thoſe of the Imperial Council, who took part with *France*, having deſigns contrary to thoſe of that Prince, were as active on the other ſide by cloſe and ſudden ways to bring two things to paſs: The firſt was to raiſe and eſtabliſh a miſ-underſtanding between this Prince, and his Highneſs of *Lorrain*; Commander in

in chief of the great Army of the Empire: The Second was, to order the diſtribution of Ammunition neceſſary for the Army in ſuch a manner, that when it was provided of one ſort, it ſhould certainly want another: When it had Cannon, it wanted Carriages; and when it had both theſe, it ſhould have neither Powder nor Bullet: And to give thoſe of the Council their due, their deſigns took effect to admiration, for the whole ſtory of that Campaigne is (in ſhort) no more but a miſunderſtanding between theſe Princes, and want of Ammunition. But this was not enough, for the malice of theſe Emiſſaries, they p oceeded further to hire one under the name of *Dela Magdelaine*, who having been inſtructed by the Major *Domo*, of the Abbot S. *Gall* (of whom we ſhall have occaſion to ſpeak hereafter) was

was ſet on to ſeduce and ſurprize this Prince: In a word, he came to the Duke of *Saxe Eyſenach* to propoſe to him the ſurprizal of a Fortreſs belonging to *France* in the higher *Alſatia:* The propoſal was guilded over with ſo much probability of ſucceſs, that the Duke animated with zeal to do ſomething great for the Glory of his Imperial Majeſty, and the Intereſt of his Country: greedily hearkned, and quickly embraced the propoſal. After ſome neceſſary precautions for the Enterpriſe, *Duneewald* was commanded to undertake the Execution, and having in the Action diſcovered the Cheat: the Duke us'd his endeavours to have the Criminal Arreſted: But all to no purpoſe; for the Major *Domo* had already ſecured him in a place of ſafety: I make no doubt but every one will

will grant me, this Rogue deſerved death, and had not any colour of pretence, to find eſteem or ſafety in the Empire: But it proved quite otherwiſe upon his Capitulation, (I mean that with the Major *Domo*) for the Rogue, having play'd this excellent trick, had the impudence to go to the Emperours Court, where he was very well received, and highly treated, and ſent thence to *Breſlaw*, where Count *Shaftkutſch*, Preſident of the Imperial Chamber in *Sileſia*, pays him conſtantly, by order from above, annually a conſiderable Penſion: This arrant Cheat goes now as formerly under the Name of *Cygale*, and gives out he is a-kin to the Grand Signior: But it hath been made appear in *France* and *England*, that he is a Native of *Maldavia*, and was Groom to a Prince of that Country: This is the

the true Character of him, the reſt that is ſaid of him are but inventions of Jeſuits and Monks, who go ſnips with him in the Preſents he receives on his Lying pretences. I have been more particular in my account to your Highneſs of this Fellow, to arm you the better againſt a ſurprize, by his Fictions and Artifices, which he continues to practiſe every day in hope to get ſomething from thoſe he can impoſe upon.

The Fifth *Inſtance.*

By what I have ſaid formerly of *Swizzerland*, it may appear of what importance it may be to the Emperor and Empire to make that Republick ſenſible of their true intereſt, and treat with them for a League and Union of Forces in defence of the Common

mon Liberty; and (to bring this about) to employ in the Negotiation, Persons not only capable and faithful, but acceptable to those they are to treat with: Yet as if the Emperor's Council made it their business to do in this as other particulars, only what may gain them the favour, or the Gold of His most Christian Majesty. 'Tis fit to know the Person the Emperor's Council employs in all those important Negotiations they have with that Republick. It is no other than the Abbot S. *Gall*'s Major *Domo*, above mentioned, called Monsieur *Fidelle*, (Mr. *Faithful*,) but by the same figure of speech our Divines call the Prince of Darkness an Angel of Light: For this Fellow is notoriously known and confest to be the falsest of Men. Yet being a Person of a very ready wit, a lively fancy, and

naturally active in what he undertakes, sometimes he openly acts on the part of *France*, and publickly solicits Suffrages in this Republick in favour of that Crown; sometimes he turns his Coat, and is on the sudden all for the House of *Austria*: This man from a petty Pedler of *Italy*, is become excessive Rich, which I mention as a circumstance whereby it may be the better known what a Man he is, how fit to negotiate the Interests of his Imperial Majesty, and to be the Confident and Councellor of the Ministers of State; His Councel sends into these parts: And to make appear their Wisdom or Collution in this particular, I must acquaint your Highness with a matter generally known throughout the *Swisse* Cantons.

That

That this man is owner of a Moity of two *Swisse* Companies, now actually in the Service of the *French*, under the command of his Son in Law: (An Ordinary Traffick among the *Swisses*) That his most Christian Majesty hath within these three years bestowed on him a Rich Canonry, in the higher *Alsatia*, or *Brisgow*, which one of his Sons is invested in: That 'tis this faithful Minister of the Imperial Court, hath since the beginning of the last War, bought all the Horses his Christian Majesty had need of for his Armies, and caused them to be transported from the Port of *Wasserbourgh* in *Germany* (where his Master hath a Bayliff, and no small Power) to the Port of *Riahar*, in *Switzerland*, which is a place whereof his Master is Soveraign Prince: That this man being the principal incendi-

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ary and Fomenter of all the troubles and broils hapned in *Swisserland*, these last twenty years; is so generally hated by all good people of that Nation, that to procure the miscarriages of any affair of the Dyets of *Baden*, there is no surer means than to make the Assembly suspect this man hath a hand, or is any way concerned in it. This appeared clearly in the affair of the County of *Burgundy*, for Count *Cazatti*, the *Spanish* Embassadour, having very unadvisedly resolved to make use of this mans Counsel and Conduct in a matter of that importance, that *mighty* affair was utterly ruin'd by that very means: Notwithstanding all, this man is the Confident and privy Councellour of all the Ministers his Imperial Majesty sends to that Nation, and their first business, when arrived there, is to visit him, to consult him and

and communicate to him all their instructions: This about three years since, occasion'd a pleasant passage at the Dyet of *Baden*: An Envoy of his Imperial Majesty, (whom I purposely forbear to name) according to the Custom of his Predecessors in that Employ, and the Orders establisht, went presently after his arrival to consult this Oracle; going afterward to *Baden*, the Envoy was strangely surprized to find that *Gravelle* the *French* Embassadour had already Communicated to the Assembly all the private Instructions the Envoy had received from the Councel at *Vienna*: Thus that Envoy's Negotiations came to nothing, and so will all others his Imperial Majesty shall permit to be managed by the false and Corrupt Conduct of a Man so base, and altogether unworthy the honour of that Employment.

The Sixth *Inſtance.*

'Tis an infallible Maxim, that every Prince diſpoſſeſt of his Eſtate, may hold for certain, there will be nothing omitted on the part of the Uſurper, or a Conquerour in poſſeſſion to ruin him, if poſſible, and all his Generation: Therefore 'tis not ſtrange, that the Miniſters of *France* (though perhaps in this particular againſt the intention and without the order of his moſt Chriſtian Majeſty) leave no ſtone unturned for the deſtruction of his Highneſs of *Lorrain*: But it may ſurprize any man to find that the Imperial Governour of *Phillipsbourgh*, ſhould (ſo openly and notoriouſly, as he did) have attempted the deſtruction of that Prince, by the trap he cauſed cunningly to be made in the bridge of that place, for that purpoſe,

poſe, through which the good Prince fell headlong to the bottom of the Ditch: May we not juſtly infer, this Governor had capitulated and agreed with ſome Miniſter of the Enemy to commit ſo vile a Treaſon? May we not conclude ſo black an attempt againſt a Soveraign Prince, Brother in Law to the Emperor, and at that time repreſenting the Perſon of His Imperial Majeſty, under the Character of *Generaliſſimo* of his Armies, unqueſtionably merited exemplary puniſhment? No honeſt Man but expected the Criminal ſhould have been made a Sacrifice to Juſtice and Vengeance, when he was taken and carried under a ſtrong Guard to *Vienna*. But all that was meer ſhew, for the Favourers of *France* had that influence over the Council at *Vienna*, that this Villain, as the former, paſt altogether unpuniſhed.

The seventh *Instance.*

It appears publickly his most Christian Majesty since the *Peace* Arms by Sea and Land more powerfully than before; and *France* being not sufficient for the Levies he makes, he is come by his Ambassadour to the Center of the Empire, to *Frankford* and to *Prague* to compleat them. He causes Fortresses and Places of strength to be every day built on the *Saar*, the *Rhine*, and all the Frontiers of *Germany*. I think there needs no better evidence of his having a Design to reduce *Almayn* into a condition of disability to help it self, when he thinks fit to attacque it; if we consider farther, that he causes his Commissaries to buy up all the Corn in *Swabe* and *Franconia*, which is daily carried away into

into his Magazins in *Lorrain*, *Alsatia*, and the County of *Burgundy*. Let us examine on the other side the conduct of the Head and Natural Defender of the Empire, or rather of his unhappy Council: This Prince hath since the *Peace* reformed all his Troops, and in particular the Garrison of *Rhinefeld*, which is of principal consequence: Let us weigh the matter without prejudice: He hath disbanded most of his old Regiments, and kept on foot only part of the new. A man must be blind, and void of common sense, who comprehends not that the Imperial Council hath in this particular acted by intelligence with the Council of *France*, and by their direction, to deprive the Emperor of the only Officers and Soldiers capable to defend him, and to make them immediately go over into

the ſervice of *France*: The matter hath fallen out according to their deſign, and I leave it to any man verſed in matters of State or of War, to judge what a Conduct ſo extraordinary as this doth naturally ſignifie.

I ſhould be too tedious to give you all the Inſtances I know whereby to prove the Emperour is certainly betray'd by the greater part of his Council. But to be ſhort, let it be obſerved, that the ſame Council that cleared the Steward of Commiſſary *Capelliers*, the Traytors of *Frankfort* who would have furniſhed *Philipsbourgh* with Powder in the Siege, and the Governour of *Fribourg*: The ſame Council that hath protected at *Breſlaw* the Villain who abuſed the Duke of *Saxe Eiſnach*, and procur'd a Penſion to be ſetled on him; the ſame Council that hath ſetled the

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Major Domo of the Abbot St. *Gall*, to be the Imperial Miniſter in *Switzerland*, and prevented the exemplary puniſhment of the Governour of *Phillipsbourgh*; the ſame Council that adviſed His Imperial Majeſty to reform the greateſt part of his Troops, and in the manner I have told you; this is the very Council hath clearly acquitted and approved of all the Conduct and publick Robberies and Inſolences of Commiſſary *Capelliers*, and others; and by cauſing His Imperial Majeſty to ſign the late ſhameful *Peace*, have reduced the too good Prince into ſuch a Condition, that (without a ſpecial *Providence* of God to the contrary) no *Prince* will henceforth without much difficulty and caution relye on his Word or his Signet: So that conſidering the Activity, the Power and

intereſt of his Enemy, with the credit and influence he hath in the Emperor's Council, His Imperial Majeſty, as to his Elective Imperial Crown (and I know not what to ſay of his Hereditary Dominions and Eſtates) ſeems reduced to the Condition of a *Chilperic* or a *Charles* in *France*; for he hath more than one *Pepin*, or one *Hugh Capett* to deal with. Nor do I ſee he hath any greater Authority than had thoſe two unfortunate Kings, who were violently thruſt out of their Thrones; which neither they, nor any of their *Poſterity* ever regained. The better to convince the World how foully His Imperial Majeſty is betrayed by his Council, and in him all the *Princes* and *States* of the Empire, and that there hath been of a long time a horrid and villainous *Plot* carried on againſt them with

with great cunning and caution, give me leave to observe that it proceeds from the secret Engines of this Plot, that His Imperial Majesty's two Sisters were Married to Princes, both Robbed of their Dominions and Estates: As to the Duke of *Lorrain*, Husband of the Elder, he continues to this day stript of all his Estates, and if the late Peace hold, I see little hopes of his Re-establishment. And it cannot be denied but that the Duke of *Newburgh*, though restored by the Peace of the Dukedoms of *Juliers* and *Berg*, was out of possession of both, at the time of the Marriage of his Son to the Emperor's younger Sister. The Reasons of these Marriages were, that the Princesses being Married (as they are) to Princes uncapable to afford His Imperial Majesty any Succour at need, neither His Majesty nor his Allies might

might have any benefit by the Marriages. And that when ever *France* should be desirous of Peace, there might be those in the Imperial Councils and Court, whose intereſt would oblige them to desire and procure it, in order to their reſtoration and re-eſtabliſhment in their Eſtates, and to free themſelves from the neceſſity of begging their Bread elſewhere. It hath happened accordingly as to the Duke of *Newburgh* at leaſt, for having not wherewith to bear the Charge of the Marriage of his Son with the Emperor's Siſter, without being reſtored to the Dutchies of *Juliers* and *Berg*, which could not (at leaſt ſo ſpeedily) be effected without a *Peace*, what wonder is it, that this *Prince* hath for the time paſt (being forced by his Neceſſities) joyned with that part of the Emperor's Council that was for *Peace*, and aſſiſted

assisted them in perswading His Imperial Majesty to sign it on any Condition: Nor can it appear strange, if this *Prince* for the future joyn with the same Council, and use all his Credit and Intereſt with His Imperial Majesty, never to enter into a War with *France*, though he have never so great Reason for it. *For when Wants and Necessities enter in at the Door, Honour and Friendship flyeth out at the Windows.*

His Highness of *Lorrain* (to give him his due) hath done bravely on this occasion, having generously chosen to run the *Risque* of losing all, rather than sign so shameful and unjust a *Peace*, as that propoſed to him by *France*: And I shall be very much deceived, if he or his recover not their Estates rather by this than any other Conduct: For Revolutions are Common to all,

all, and I have particular Reaſons to believe it may one day happen ſo in the Affairs of his Highneſs.

This I think is more than ſufficient to Evince that His Imperial Majeſty hath been baſely betrayed by his Council.

My next buſineſs is to ſhew by what ſort of People he hath been chiefly betrayed, and with what Covers they have guilded thoſe Pills, which they have made this Good and Auguſt Prince ſwallow from time to time.

To find the bottom of this buſineſs, we muſt look a great way back, as far as the beginning of the War, which *France* by Concert with *England*, the Elector of *Cologne*, the Duke of *Newburg*, and the Biſhop of *Munſter*, made againſt the *United Provinces* in 1672. After ſeveral Alliances with the Deceaſed Elector of *Bavaria*,

Bavaria, and Duke of *Hanover*, and others, which were but too visible during that War.

Several pretences have been made use of to colour that Rupture, but the truth is, it was fomented only by the Court of *Rome* and the Jesuits: To give your Highness full and clear satisfaction in this particular, be pleased to permit me to put you in mind, that a little before the breaking out of that War, his Royal Highness of *Savoy* Deceased, having taken his Measures with the Court and Council of *France*, made open War against the Republick of *Genoa*. The Court of *Rome* wisely judging the Duke of *Savoy* would not have engaged in that Enterprize without assurance before hand of Succour and Protection from *France*, if needful; and that those petty Sparks might raise a

General

General Conflagration in *Italy*, which in time might draw over thither all the *French* Forces, and conſequently expoſe that Country to inevitable Ruin; that ſubtil and cunning Court to ſave themſelves from the Storm, applied themſelves ſeriouſly,

In the firſt place, to put an end upon any terms to the War between the Duke and the Republick, which Monſieur *Gaumont* ſoon after effected.

In the next place, being ſenſible what formidable Forces His Moſt Chriſtian *Majeſty* had then on foot, and that that *Monarch* could not forbear breaking out into a new War; the Court of *Rome* reſolved to uſe all their endeavours to divert from themſelves, and their Neighbours, the Effects of the *French* Arms, and cauſe them to fall on ſome other Country of *Europe*, the moſt

moſt romote that might be from *Italy*, and where it might be moſt Convenient for the intereſt of the *Pope*: The Jeſuits having given directions to this purpoſe, the affair was manag'd with that ſubtilty, the Storm fell altogether on the *United Provinces*, the Court of *Rome* aſſuring it ſelf, that if that Republique were once deſtroy'd, the whole *Proteſtant Party* would naturally come to ruine, and the *Papal* Authority in a ſhort time recover it's primitive Grandeur and Glory. Great Obſtacles were quickly diſcovered againſt the carrying on this mighty *Project*: The moſt Chriſtian King who clearly ſaw what the Court of *Rome* aim'd at, was or pretended to be, unwilling to engage in Open War againſt the *United Provinces*, but on two Conditions.

First

First, That the Court of *Rome* should secretly consent and give way that he might, if he could, joyn the *Provinces* of the *Spanish Netherlands* and *Lorrain*, with what he could Conquer from the States of the *United Provinces*, to form or restore the Ancient Kingdom of *Austrasia*.

Secondly, That the *Court* of *Rome* should assure him, to their *Power*, to procure his *Majesty* and the *Dauphin*, (who was designed the New King of *Austrasia*,) the Imperial Crown.

As to the point of the *Spanish Netherlands*, it must be observ'd, that to bring about the Design, it was absolutely necessary to manage his *Majesty* of *Great Britain*, (whose interests there were very considerable) and there could be no hopes to give him satisfaction without Sacrificing to him something very considerable of what

what belong'd to the *Spaniard*. It would have been almoſt impoſſible for any but the *Jeſuits* Intereſts, ſo different, to reconcile and overcome ſo great and Numerous Difficulties. The two Branches of the moſt Auguſt Houſe of *Auſtria*, had heap'd moſt conſiderable Favours, and ſhowed their Bounties, on the Society of Jeſuits: But when they are concerned for the Grandeur of the *Pope*, and the intereſts of the *Mitre* (which (by the way) the Society looks on with the ſame Ardour a young *Prince* in Love would eye the advantages, the Glory and Intereſts of a Beautiful and rich Queen, whom he made no doubt but he ſhould one day enjoy) all Thoughts and memory of the favours received from the *Auguſt Family*, are wholly laid aſide on that occaſion; the *Jeſuits* fell immediately

to

to find out Expedients for two Reasons, full of *Justice* and *Equity*, according to the *Politick Maxims* of that Blessed *Society*.

The first was, that whereas the House of *Austria* in the present Conjuncture was notoriously unable to raise the *Roman Bishops* to their former Estate of Grandeur and Glory, and that there was not any but His Most Christian *Majesty*, who by his *Forces* and *Interests* could work this kind of *Miracle*, it was absolutely necessary to remove all Difficulties and Obstacles that might hinder the effecting an enterprise so *Profitable* and *Glorious*.

The Second, That in case the Design should take effect, the Society was assured of having in recompence of their pains, two great Abbies, Heads of their Orders, the one in the Ancient Kingdom of *France*, the other in the

New

New Conquests: Which Abbys were to be added to the vast *Patrimony* of this Society, besides the assurances they had by the protection of *France*, to obtain a Settlement in *Amsterdam*, and elsewhere. Upon these Grounds they procur'd the Treaties to be privately sign'd between *France* and *Rome*, and between *France* and *England*, by vertue whereof the War was quickly begun against the *United Provinces*.

I pass over in silence the satisfaction his *Majesty* of *Great Britain* was to have, as impertinent to my present business: It may be observed, that as under the Reign of *Philip* the second *France* was to have been made (as far as it lay in the *Power* of *Rome*) a Sacrifice to the interests of the *Papal Miter*, and the *Monarch* of *Spain*, 'tis now become the turn of the most August House of *Austria*,

Austria, (according to this Project) to be Sacrificed to the interests of the Papacy, the Jesuits and his most Christian Majesty. And that as the principal design of the Jesuits, and of *France*, was the absolute destruction of the Protestant Party, it was from hence it proceeded, that a League was form'd and sign'd by most of the Catholick Princes of *Germany*, and incorporated into the Treaties above mention'd, wherein every of the Confederates had, or at least thought to have had his design and compass'd his ends, as afterwards appear'd: Hence also it proceeded that *France*, having anciently had very strict alliances with the Protestant Princes of *Germany*, conceal'd very carefully the present design from all its ancient Allyes of that Communion. The Court of *Rome*, and the

the Society as carefully conceal'd it from both branches of the House of *Austria*; and all this for reasons, then which nothing is more easily apprehended: For the same reason it was, that in the beginning of this War, nothing was omitted by the Popes Nuncio, the Jesuits, and their Emissaries, to lull asleep the Councels of *Vienna* and *Madrid*; and that afterwards they did with all possible diligence reveal to the Ministers of *France*, all they could discover of the deliberations of the Imperial Councel, or the Spanish. For the same reason it was, that his Imperial Majesty by the clear Remonstrances of the Elector of *Brandenbourgh* being made sensible of the Trap cunningly laid for him by the *French*, and having commanded an Army to joyn with that Elector on the *Rhine*,

Rhine, those Emissaries of *Rome* laid all their heads together, and for their Master-piece to carry on the Design, effected two things.

The first was the Rebellion of the *Male Contents* in *Hungary*, not yet Suppressed, whereby they endeavour'd, if possible, to give the *Emperour* so strong a diversion, that it might not be in his Power to assist his Allies.

The second, I have from an Anonimous Author of an Essay of the Interest of the *Protestant Princes* and *States*, *Printed* in the year, 1676. and treating of several things, in this respect very considerable: The Author in my Opinion deserves the more Credit, in that he hath lash'd the Society to some purpose in his Discourse, yet not one of it's Patrons or Partisans hath undertook to refute him: The account he

the gives of the first Campaign, I will repeat Word for Word from the Original, as very suitable to my purpose.

In the Year 1672. when the Arms of *France* were so prosperous, that all *Europe* looked on the States of the *United Provinces* as very near Destruction, His Electoral Highness of *Brandenbourgh* wisely foreseeing the Consequences to be expected from the Ambitious Enterprizes of *France*, if not stopped in time, gained himself the Reputation, not only of having been the first Prince of *Christendom* who drew his Sword in Protection of that broken State, but by vigorous Remonstrances to the Court of *Vienna*, was the cause that His Imperial Majesty, awaking out of the *Lethargy* some corrupt Counsellors had cast him into, resolved to Arm vigorously, and

joyn with his Electoral Highness in Defence of that Republique. His Electoral Highness in pursuance of this Resolution being advanc'd towards the *Rhine*, with a considerable Army, and *Count Montecuculi* being on his way thither in the Head of an Imperial Army, with design to act jointly, and to do something considerable in favour of the Republique. *France*, allarm'd by the March of the two *German* Armies, had detach'd Marshal *Turenne*, with a Body of an Army to observe the motions of the other two: But by the several Marches and Counter-Marches these two Armies had made, especially that of *Brandenbourgh* sometimes making as if they would pass the *Rhine* in several places, sometimes in being ready to fall upon the Allies of *France* beyond the *Rhine*, *Turennes* Army

my was ſo tyr'd out and haraſſed, that about the end of the Campaign it was almoſt quite diſſipated, and found it ſelf in ſo miſerable a Condition, that 'tis certain all *Turenne* was able to do, was to be on the defenſive againſt one of thoſe Armies, and that if both Armies had join'd, *Turenne* had been inevitably loſt, as was publickly confeſt. His Electoral Highneſs of *Brandenburg* knowing how eaſie it was to deſtroy *Turenne*, and the Conſequence of his Defeat, cauſed a vigorous Remonſtrance of all to be made to the Council of *Vienna*; it was ſo effectual, that poſitive Orders were ſent *Montecuculi* to join his Electoral Highneſs and Fight *Turenne*, without further loſs of time; which would have broken all the open and hidden Meaſures of *France*, and by one blow freed the *Em-*

pire and *Holland* from Oppreſſion. But other matters were in hand for the Intereſt of *Rome*. His Majeſty of *Great Brittain* had permitted himſelf to be perſwaded to publiſh about that time, a Declaration (whereof he made Report to his Parliament,) whereby a Tolleration and Indulgence was granted in favour of the *Nonconformiſts* of his Kingdoms. Though it may be thought it was not ſo much for favouring the particular Conventicles of the Sectaries of the *Proteſtant* Party, as, under the name of *Non-Conformiſts*, to introduce *Popery* again into that Eſtate, though contrary to the Deſigns and Intentions of His Majeſty, who granted it only in favour of the tender Conſciences of his *Proteſtant* Subjects. This Step towards *Popery* being the Firſt Fruits the Court of *Rome*

had

had promiſed it ſelf from the Ruin of the States of the *United Provinces*, 'tis no wonder that Court ſet all hands at work to effect that Ruin. The then principal Obſtacle of the Deſign, was the Reſolution of His Electoral Highneſs againſt *Turenne*, the Deſtruction of his Army being capable to Re-eſtabliſh the States of the *United Provinces*, and that Re-eſtabliſhment would have deſtroyed all the Projects of the Jeſuits in *England*. Here it was the Jeſuits plaid their part to prevent the blow from falling on *Turenne*, and they acted it too well for the general Good of *Europe*: for *Montecuculi* inſtead of receiving Expreſs Order to joyn *Brandenbourgh*'s Army, and fight *Turenne*, received Orders quite contrary; whereby he was abſolutely forbidden to do the one or the other. To drive this Nail

to the head; the venerable Society (whose impudence nothing can parallel) made it their business several ways to infuse into his Electoral Highness a jealousie of the Emperour, as insincere in his intentions: this was effected with the greater facility, for that his *E. H.* of *Brandenbourgh*, having received from the Court of *Vienna*, a formal Letter, which gave him an exact account of the true order his Imperial Majesty had sent *Montecuculi* to join him and fight the *French*, and his *E. H.* having summoned *Montecuculi* to execute that Order, *Montecuculi*, who knew he had Orders quite contrary, but knew nothing of the former, of which the Elector had account, could do no less than refuse the one and the other, nor could his Electoral Highness choose upon the refusal, but suspect the sincerity of the

the Emperor's Intentions. This was not enough for those Masters of mischief, for at the same time those Emissaries omitted nothing that might instill into *Montecuculi*, a suspicion of the sincerity of the Elector's Intentions. These Jealousies being but too deeply established, especially on this last side, 'tis no wonder His Electoral Highness was at last perswaded (as these Emissaries had by a third Hand insinuated to him) that the House of *Austria* treated under-hand a separate Peace with *France*: Which appeared the more probable, by the daily Advice he had of the miserable estate of *Turenne*'s Army, growing every hour worse and worse, and the obstinacy of *Montecuculi*, neither to joyn him, nor fight. The Emissaries foreseeing this misunderstanding would vanish in

time, when the truth should appear, made use of that conjuncture to set on the Duke of *Neuburgh* to manage a particular Peace between his Electoral Highness and *France*; which the Elector, jealous of the Imperialists, and next at their proceedings, was at last perswaded to accept, and with so much the more reason, that as to *Holland* he pretended they had not satisfied their Engagements to him, and as to the interests of the Empire he reserved himself intire liberty to arm in its defence, if *France* should attacque it.

The Elector was concerned in Reputation to make the Emperour sensible of his just Resentments of *Montecuculi's* proceeding: *Montecuculi* was strangely surprized, when at his return to *Vienne* his Master called him to a strict account of his Conduct,

and the Reasons why he had neither joined *Brandenbourgh*'s Army, nor fought *Turenne*, when expreſs Orders had been ſent him for both. But if *Montecuculi* was ſurprized at the Queſtion, his Imperial Majeſty was no leſs at the Anſwer, when this ſage General produced for his diſcharge an Order of his Imperial Majeſty in very good form, expreſly forbidding him either to joyn with *Brandenbourgh* or fight *Turenne*: And 'tis certain, this General found all the juſtice of his Cauſe, and the aſſurance his Maſter had of his fidelity, little enough to clear him of this unhappy Affair. I know this buſineſs is one of thoſe Riddles never to be decypher'd, unleſs the Author will voluntarily give us the Key. I know 'tis from hence it proceeds, that one of the principal Wretches of this

Court hath been formerly charged with this Forgery: But to ſpeak the truth, the whole guilt of this Affair lies at the Doors of the Emiſſaries of *Rome* in this Court, who by ſecret Contrivances with thoſe of *France*, found the means to intercept the true Original Order, and in the ſame diſpatch to tranſmit a falſe one, but very well Counterfeit both the Hand and Seal: And that by People who are not now to learn that Trade: It being certain we ſhould not have ſeen ſo many Troubles in *Hungary*, as dayly are there, had theſe Emiſſaries leſs credit in the Emperours Court.

His Imperial Majeſty, the Elector of *Brandenbourgh*, and Count *Montecuculi* know the truth of all that concerns them in this Affair: But I am well aſſur'd not one of the three knows the ſecret

cret Engines set at work in the buſineſs. What I know thereof comes not from them, but from a place where every particular of this Negotiation was known, and by whom it was animated. Certain it is, if the point of the *Catholicon* in *England* had not been found, the Miniſters of *France* could not have ſo eaſily compaſſed this Forgery; but by that every thing became feaſible, the Directors of the Society having voluntarily undertaken to maſter all Difficulties.

By the ingenious Deduction of this Relation, where the Author ſpeaks plainly, as a man well inſtructed and acquainted with the fineneſs, and ſuperfineneſs of the management, and by what I have ſaid before, on the ſame Subject, and every one may of himſelf apprehend it appears that it proceeds from a Principle of

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a Papal, or Jesuitical Ambition, the Council of *Vienna*, from the beginning of the War, hath been so well penetrated, directed, or altered, that all the Expeditions of the Imperial Army (except with convenient distinctions, the considerable Important taking of *Bonne*, the long and languishing Siege of *Philipsbourgh*, and the taking it at last, and the death of *Turenne*, which was meerly accidental) I say all the Expeditions, these three Points excepted, have been from the beginnings of the Campaigns to the end of them, but so many Processions and Pilgrimages of Shame and of Misery, of Disorder and Confusion, as the Subjects of the Empire know too well, who have been flayed to the bone, and had their Marrow sucked out by Winter-quarters, without consideration, or mercy, but especially

cially the Protestant States and people, and other Princes, Lords, Magistrates, Countries and Towns, who have felt the smart of that fiery Tryal.

From the same principle it is, that when by the Expulsion of the *Swedes* out of the Patrimony of the Empire, his Electoral Highness of *Brandenbourgh*, and his Highness of *Zell* and *Osnabourgh* were in a condition (notwithstanding the particular peace of the United *Provinces* and *Spain*) to transport the chief of their Forces upon the Frontiers of *France*, and by so glorious an Action, to oblige *France* infallibly to make a peace with the Empire in general and particular, according to Justice and Equity, then were the Emissaries of *Rome*, so powerful in the Council at *Vienna*, that they obliged his Imperial Majesty, to

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the prejudice of all his Treaties, to ſeal privately ſuch a peace with *France*, as we have mentioned before; which hath been manag'd with ſo much dexterity that that good (but for that time too credulous) Prince did believe, and perhaps is ſtill of the ſame mind, that he acted according to the moſt judicious Maxims of Religion and Prudence: And becauſe it may concern your Highneſs to be inform'd what Artifices were uſed by the Jeſuits and Miniſters of *France*, who went hand in hand, acting by concert in all this Affair, to engage his Imperial Majeſty to ſign that fatal Peace, there were ſent from *France* under other pretences the Dutcheſs of *Mecklenbourgh* to the Court of *Zell*, and the Count of *D' Epauſe* to that of *Brandenbourgh*, and at the ſame time the Jeſuits labour'd

ſo

so effectually, that his Imperial Majesty was made believe (though certainly without just ground) that the Houses of *Brandenbourgh* and *Lunenbourgh*, had already agreed, or were just upon agreeing, to a seperate Peace with *France*; whereby his Imperial Majesty would be left alone a prey to the *French* Ambition. True it is, if those Princes were in that Conjuncture (as is very probable) very willing to keep what they had conquer'd from the *Swede*: I think they had done well to have dismist those Envoys from their Courts, which had they done, it would at least have taken away from the Emperours corrupt Council, all prentence of rendring them suspitious to his Imperial Majesty, and hastening him in pursuance of that suspition to sign the peace under Consideration.

To

To sum up all, we may from what hath been said, reasonably infer these three particulars.

First, That his Imperial Majesty hath been basely betrayed by the greater part of his Councel; for I am not so malicious and unjust to confound the innocent with the guilty, and not to make an exception (out of the general clause) in favour of those of his Councel, who are men of Integrity and Honour, who in truth I think are very few, and not much in Credit.

Secondly, That his Imperial Majesty being so villanously betray'd by his Councel, the Empire in general and particular, through the indissoluble union of the head and Members cannot but miserably participate the misfortune and sufferings of its Soveraign, as is very well known by a fatal, and too long experience.

Thirdly,

Thirdly, That 'tis eaſie for his Imperial Majeſty, and the Empire, to know whom they have equally cauſe to complain of, and from what Principle not only this Treaſon is derived, but all the miſchiefs that have afflicted Chriſtendom, for above an Age, but eſpecially the Empire ſince the beginning of the late War: I ſay for above an Age, as to the General; becauſe that which his moſt Chriſtian Majeſty, inſtigated by the Jeſuits, undertakes in our days, is but the ſame, which, by inſtigation of their predeceſſors, *Charles* the firſt, the Emperor *Ferdinand* the Second, and *Philip* the Second of *Spain*, did in their days. As to the Empire in particular I ſay, ſince the beginning of the laſt War; becauſe 'tis certain his Imperial Majeſty hath been ſince that time by the means I have

have mentioned, ſo cloſely beſet, and ſo ſtrictly obſerved, that 'tis not in his power to ſpeak, to adviſe, to wiſh, or do any thing, but the Society knows, and abſolutely deſtroys it, if not ſuitable to their particular Intereſts and Deſigns: There is not a perſon in the Emperor's Court, but knows, that no man without certain ruin dare oppoſe in that Court that Cabal in any matter though never ſo little: To conclude this Point, His Imperial Majeſty, as a Slave to the Society, as things ſtand at preſent, ſerves only to Authorize his own Ruin, the Ruin of his Auguſt Family, and of the Empire in general and particular: For the very Moment I write, *France* publickly ſolicits in the Empire, (as I ſaid before) the Nomination of a King of the *Romans* in favour

vour of the Dauphin, which in all probability will be managed with so much dexterity and subtilty, that his Imperial Majesty, if he follow the advice of his Council, Spiritual or Temporal, will think himself obliged in Conscience voluntarily to give way to it.

This, my Lord, is the true state of his Imperial Majesty, and his Council since the last Peace. Three things remain to be considered.

First, The particular Advantages the Court of *Rome*, and the Jesuits procured themselves by the late War.

Secondly, What Advantages they design'd themselves by the late Peace, and its consequences.

Thirdly, What the Empire in general and particular may expect from the present state of Affairs.

The

The Advantages the Court of *Rome* and the Jesuits procured themselves, by the late War, have not been so great as they promised themselves, for God having preserved the United Provinces, whose utter Destruction they had projected; 'tis certain, most of their Projects in *England*, and elsewhere, were defeated: Yet the Advantages of the Papacy over the Protestant Party, in the late War, are very considerable; and consist in five Particulars.

1. That by the fire of War, kindled by the Artifices of *Rome*, and the Jesuits, between *England* and the United Provinces, those two Protestant Powers have unhappily consumed very considerable Forces in Men, Money, Ships, Ammunition, and loss of Trade, the Soul and Substance of the Riches of both Countries.

2. That

2. That the *United Provinces* have in defence of themselves against *France* and its Allies in *Germany*, been forced to spend their Men and their Money, besides loss of Trade during the War.

3. That *Swede*, *Denmark*, *Brandenbourgh*, and *Zell*, have consumed their Forces during all this War, kindled by the Artifices of the same Party, between *Swede*, and the three Princes of *Denmark*, *Brandenbourgh*, and *Lunenbourgh*, both by Sea and Land.

4. That under pretence of this War, the Protestant States of the Empire, as well during the Campagnes, as by Winter-Quarters, have been miserably harrassed and exhausted with Exactions, Burnings, Contributions to that degree, that most of the Protestant Imperial

Towns

War, one againſt another, to the Conſumption of their Forces; and to fortifie your ſelf on their Frontiers, that you may make ſudden Inroads into their Countries when you pleaſe: The Court of *Rome*, and the Jeſuits, by the Acceſs they have had to the Council of *France*, and the Houſe of *Auſtria*, and by the help of the Counſellors there, and in the Proteſtant Courts, have with great dexterity put theſe Maxims in practiſe during the late War: For His Majeſty of *Swedland*, managed by *France*, His Majeſty of *Denmark*, His Electoral Highneſs of *Brandenbourgh*, and His Highneſs of *Zell*, managed by the Imperial Court, will take the pains to ſearch to the bottom, by what Motives and Artifices they have been all four engaged in a War, which hath ruined their Eſtates

for

for more than ten years. I doubt not (with the respect and submission that is due to them) but they will find that the modern *Romans* have with great insolence and perfidiousness practised upon them what the ancient *Romans* did for divertisement to their Gladiators: for when these men had by bloody, and oftentimes mortal Combats, sufficiently diverted the Spectators, and the Magistrate made them a Sign to give out, they were bound to do it, and in what condition soever they were to go every one home, as these four Princes were in the end forced to do. This may serve for an excellent and important instruction for *England*, *Holland*, *Swede*, and *Denmark*, and all the Protestant States and Princes of *Germany*, to avoid effectually the snares the Court of *Rome* every

day lays for them the ways I have observed, with a setled design to destroy not only their Religion but their Temporal Estates.

The Second Point.

The Advantages the Court of of *Rome* and the Jesuits proposed to themselves by the conclusion of the Peace between his Imperial Majesty and *France*, may be reduced to three principal Heads.

1. By the Maxims observed in the first part of my Letter, to fix (without danger of any probable variation) the Designs of *France*, and the Efforts of their Arms, against the Empire and Northern Countries, as most remote from *Italy*, and most convenient by the progress of those Arms to ruine the Protestant Party

Party and consequently to advance the re-establishment of the Papal Grandeur and Authority, the fall of the one producing naturally the exaltation of the other. And for attaining this end, to procure this Peace to be so made, that his most Christian Majesty might be fully perswaded the Court of *Rome* and the Jesuits (in prejudice to all other Powers of Christendom) studied nothing more than his exaltation, and an effectual setling and establishing in time an absolute Monarchick Authority over *Europe*: And that this project might be made appear so facil and easie to this Prince, that he might be the better tempted to undertake it: In order to these ends, the Court of *Rome* and the Jesuits could not have done any thing whereby more effectually to demonstrate their zeal and close

adherence to the Grandeur and Exaltation of the moſt Chriſtian King, than by making (as they have done with ſo much craft and perfidiouſneſs) a Sacrifice of the Emperour and Empire (with all that concerned the Glory and Intereſt of both) the better to carry on the Deſigns of the *French*: Their project in this particular hath proved ſo effectual, and diſcover'd ſo many diviſions, ſo much ignorance, weakneſs, and baſeneſs, in the Empire, that his moſt Chriſtian Majeſty may by theſe appearances rationally judge he may probably ſucceed in whatever he ſhall attempt againſt the Empire (though I am not of opinion he will find it ſo eaſie a matter as he hath been made believe 'tis.) But we are to believe this Prince is perſwaded that to attain all his ends, the Empire being

being the natural obſtacle againſt an Univerſal Monarchy, it muſt be his buſineſs to attempt the Empire in the firſt place. Nor can it be doubted, but the Court of *Rome* and the Jeſuits, making full account the moſt Chriſtian King will be very well able by his Forces to maſter the Empire, have haſtened with all diligence poſſible the ſigning the Peace between his Imperial Majeſty and *France*, upon deſign that his moſt Chriſtian Majeſty being by this expedient of the Peace free from War, in caſe the perpetual Plots of the Court of *Rome*, and the Jeſuits in *England*, or elſewhere, ſhould be ſo proſperous as, with the help of Forreign aid, to effect the re-eſtabliſhment of the Popes Authority there, they might make uſe of the *French* Forces to invade that Kingdom or other Countries, for the ends I have

mentioned: And, if by Gods Providence the perfidious and damnable Conſpiracy of the Jeſuits againſt the King the Religion and State of *England* had not been diſcovered the laſt year, I believe *England* had ere this felt the Effects of what I obſerve. Be pleaſed to allow me leave on this occaſion to ſay, that unleſs his Majeſty of *Great Britain* be willing to fall, with all his People, under the ſlavery of the Pope, the Jeſuits, and *France*, he hath great Cauſe to take heed leſt the Warlike Preparations of all ſorts made by the *French* in all their Ports, and on the Coaſts of the Ocean, be not made upon ſome ſuch deſign; for by the Scheme of the Plot *Ireland* is looked upon as a Country which may unqueſtionably procure *France* the abſolute Dominion of the Sea, and

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of Trade, and the Conqueſt of the *weſt Indies*, according to their ancient and primitive project.

3. The Court of *Rome* and the Jeſuits having that influence over the Imperial Council, that it was in their power to do what they pleaſed there, there is no doubt but the ſigning of the Peace was preſt on this farther deſign, that His Imperial Majeſty (the Peace concluded) finding himſelf in a condition to diſpoſe of the greateſt part of his Forces, they might eaſily perſwade him to employ them to root out the Proteſtent Party in *Hungary*, and perfect the pretended Reformation in *Sileſia*: And it was well for that People that God provided for their ſafety by very extraordinary means, I mean the Plague, for had not that broken out, it is

not credible but *Dunewald* the Apostate, now a formal Creature of the Jesuits, had been sent thither with an Army to do something. Happy would it be for His Imperial Majesty, if by just and solid Reflections on the Disasters successively fallen upon his August Family, for having too much espoused the violent and cruel passions of the Court of *Rome* and the Jesuits, and by considering this Scourge of God which hath forced him to quit his Capital City, and in a manner follows him visibly wherever he goes, he would be sensible the Hand of God is not stretched out against him, as heretofore against *David*, for his Sin, but because he hath stretched out his hand to oppress the only Congregations of Christians in his Dominions, whose Worship is not infected with

with Idolatry, and who according to the Precepts of the Gospel adore the Soveraign and Supreme Creator in Spirit and in Truth. But far happier should His Imperial Majesty be, if by such reflections God would give him the Grace, as he did to the Emperor *Charles* the Fifth before he died, to acknowledge and own the Truth he persecutes; and (setting aside Policy) embrace generously the Profession of it. God Almighty would then certainly bless him, and 'tis credible he would not deny him the Power to humble the Proud, and those who by their enormous Ambition, put all *Europe* into Combustion. I beg your Highnesses Pardon for this Digression, which the Matter I treat of, and my Zeal for the Faith and Salvation of others naturally led me to.

The Third Point.

To make some solid Prognostick, in a matter so delicate, I say, as to what the Empire in general and particular is to expect from the present state of affairs, we are to believe his most Christian Majesty (unless notably changed in his dispositions) would boldly and courageously carry on his business, I mean his pretension to make his Son, the *Dauphin*, King of the *Romans*: His Marriage with the Princess of *Bavaria*, the Envoys and magnificent Presents he sends to the Electoral Courts of *Saxony* and *Brandenbourgh*, and his arming so furiously, signifie sufficiently two things. First, His Contempt of the Alliances and Oppositions His Imperial Majesty may make against him. Secondly,

Secondly, That he will certainly pursue his pretension. 'Tis of extream importance for the Empire in general and particular to know, whether it be for the interest of the Empire to favour this pretension, or to oppose it. This with your Highnesses leave, I intend briefly to examine; and to observe some order: It is to be considered,

1. Whether it be better for the Empire in general, and every Member of it in particular, to live according to the ancient Customs, Rights and Privileges, under which they have lived for many Ages, or that the Empire, without striking a blow, submit voluntarily to the Yoke of a Government which acknowledges no Law, but that of a Power purely Despotical and Absolute?

2. As a Dependent on the former Point, Whether it be better

ter, as to the Revolutions since the Wars for Religion, that the Empire live according to the Concordats and Agreements in the Peace of *Munster*, or *Osnabrug*, and the last Capitulations with His Imperial Majesty since his Election: or without regard to the one, or the other, that the Empire engage anew in a Civil War, which by a final Victory may decide the Quarrel in favour of one of the parties, concerning the Concordats, and those two Treaties of Peace, or the late Capitulations, as if never agreed or capitulated?

I think it the more necessary to examine before hand these Points, for that we may hold it for certain.

As to the first Point.

In case the *Dauphin* be ever E-

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lected King of the *Romans*, that from the days of that Election, whatever Capitulations shall be signed to the contrary, the *German* Empire will be annexed to, and made an Hereditary Province of the Crown of *France*. To justifie this, you need only read several *French* Authors, who have treated of the Rights and pretensions of *France*, upon the Empire, particularly that of the Advocate *Aubrey*; for though he hath with good reason been laughed at for his Writings, yet if that Election take effect, we shall find his discourse solid and well grounded. Besides, you may soberly weigh what *France* hath already practised upon that part of the Empire which hath fallen to its share, and the Neighbouring Parts, both in Temporals and Spirituals: as to the Temporal Concerns, *France* seizes all boldly,

ly and openly in the Face of the Sun, without pretence of other Law, or Right, but that of convenience, with as much freedom and confidence, as it would take poſſeſſion of any ancient Patrimony of that Crown. The Dukes of *Lorrain* and *Deuxponts*, *Mentheleuard*, and the Ten free Towns of *Alſatia*, ſufficiently prove this; as to Spiritual matters, you need only read the publick Ordinance of the Biſhop of *Metz* againſt the *Lutherans* of thoſe Countries.

For the Clergy in general, all the free Chapters of the Empire, whether Arch-Biſhops, Biſhops, Abbots, Deans, or Priors, may aſſure themſelves, if this Election take place, they muſt go to *France* e'er they come to thoſe Dignities; for to imagine the free Suffrages of the Chapters ſhall be continued, is ſottiſhneſs

and

and folly. The Bishopricks of *Metz*, *Toul* and *Verdun*, and (I doubt not for the future) *Cambray*, which were heretofore Principalities of the Empire, may teach us that under a *French* Government the only way to those Dignities is by a Writ of Presentation by the Kings, and consequently all that seek or depend on those Bishopricks must be Courtiers and Slaves. Not but that I believe if the Dauphin be chosen King of the *Romans*, his Council is too cunning not to make him promise expresly to maintain the Privileges and Ecclesiastical Benefices of the Empire: And that till he be fully setled they may be content to write Letters to the Chapters to chuse the person the Court shall recommend, but in such a manner there will be no fear of refusal: Yet this course is not to

be expected to hold ten Years to an end; Which I believe the rather for that *France* pretends (as hath been declared at large by several politick Treatises) that most of the great Benefices in *Germany* have been founded by Emperors, Kings of *France*, and that consequently the Court of *France* is the true Patron of them.

The Princes of the *Empire*, Ecclesiastical and Temporal, of what Rank or Degree soever, may from the day of that Election, provide for three things which will certainly follow.

First, they shall be reduced to the natural Rents and Revenues of their ancient Patrimonies, which cannot with probability be denied to depend upon the ancient Kingdom of *Austrasia*, (which the Ministers of *France* suppose to be part of the *French*

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Monarchy) and consequently all natural Rights there being subject to the Law *Salique*, admit neither of Alienation nor Prescription. For as to the Taxes and Contributions now paid these Lords by their Vassals and Subjects, there is no doubt but they will be obliged to disclaim them, and consent with a very good Will, that the Head of the Empire shall in this Case Order what Taxes and Exactions he please to be Levied, and all for his use: To pretend Capitulations or Reasons to the contrary, will be to insist on Trifles, or commence Suits to be decided only by Military Execution.

Secondly, They will be Disarmed, it being against the Honour of the Policy of *France*, to permit any Prince, or Lord, under their Dominion, to have the Power to defend himself by force,

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be his Right to do ſo never ſo ancient and authentick.

Thirdly, To gain the favour of the Head of the *Empire*, the Head of every Houſe of the Secular Princes muſt actually wait on His Imperial Majeſty at an exceſſive Expence, or ſend in his ſtead his Brothers or Sons to make his Court, or to receive Orders and Careſſes, and ſometimes Repulſes and Checks: And the Empire being full of Diviſions and Jealouſies, there is cauſe enough to fear the Princes will ſtrive who ſhall be moſt Officious, as the Princes and other Great Men of *France* have done, to their utter Ruin, and total Conſumption of their Eſtates.

As for the Counts, and Barons, and all Gentlemen of the *Empire*, who are Vaſſals to Electors and particular Princes, my Heart bleeds to think how certainly and

and ſtrangely their Condition will be chang'd, if ever a *French* King be made Emperour. Is it probable the Miniſters of *France* will have more pity of the *German* Nobility and Gentry, than the Dukes, Marqueſſes, Counts, Barons and particular Nobility of their own Country have found at their hands. There is no doubt but the day they change their Maſter, they muſt bid an Eternal Adieu to all their Rights of Soveraign Juſtice and Free-hold. The Great Men and private Gentry of *France*, ſeveral of whom have the Honour to be deſcended in a right Line from Soveraign Princes, had no leſs Courage, nor were heretofore leſs Priviledged, nor leſs Jealous of their Rights, than many of the Body of the *Empire* are at this preſent. Yet have they been forc'd one after another to ſubmit to the Yoke,

and

and loſe all their ancient Priviledges: Nor muſt they think any more (though they have right) to lay any impoſition on their Subjects. For (as I ſaid before in the Article of the Princes,) This is a ſweet bit, which the abſolute and Deſpotical Dominion of *France* always reſerves for it's own Tooth. They muſt never think more by Offices and Imployments under particular Princes, or the Head of the *Empire* to render themſelves conſiderable, make their Fortunes, or Recover their ſpent Eſtates, as they could have done heretofore: At leaſt but few of them ſhall be ever able to do it. For as to particular Princes, they will in caſe of a *French* Emperour be abſolutely ruin'd and forc'd to Retrench themſelves and their Families to a very low Condition; and as to the Head of the *Empire*, whoever

whoever will have Office or Imployment in his House or Courts of Justice, must think of buying it with ready Money, there being not an Office or Imployment in the *French Kings* House, from the Steward of his House to the Scullion in his Kitchen, nor in his Courts of Justice, from that of Chief President to the meanest Serjeant, but is sold for ready Money. So that there remains not for the Nobility and Gentry of the *Empire*, any Office or Employ, but what must be bought, save only the Military: But the Nobility and Gentry of the *Empire* are too Judicious, (at least, unless (as the *French* Proverb is) *They are willing to be taken for Fools*,) not to know they have no reason to promise themselves in this particular of Military Employment, any greater Priviledge than is allow'd the ancient Nobility

Nobility of *France*, and consequently, that to procure the favour of the Prince or his Principal Ministers, they must serve in the Wars at their own Charge, as the *French* Nobility have done. The necessary Expences of every Office exceeding yearly, by three fourths the pay of the Prince: That is, they must resolve to consume the Bulk of their Estates to be known at Court, and frequently spend a real Patrimony in pursuit of vain and chimerical hopes, which will infallibly Ruine their Families; and being most of those who take these Courses to end their lives in Languishing Griefs and cruel Repentings: For thus it is, all the Nobility of *France* serve in the Wars, and such is the end most of them make. If we have heard of a *Schomberg* or a *Ransan* that became considerable in *France* by the

the Wars. Let the Nobility of the *Empire* be assur'd it was but a *Laxe* which the Ministers of *France* (who have long since Plotted the Conquest of the *Empire*) thought fit to hold out, to Delude and Cheat the *German* Nobility; They are like the Fires in the Night that lead them into *Precipices*, who are indiscreet enough to follow them; All this I know to be true, grounded on very Authentick Memoirs, and certain knowledge of the matters I mention.

As for the Imperial Towns and free Cities of the *Empire*, *Colmar*, *Schlestat*, and *Haguenau*, and the rest of that Rank, situate in *Alsatia*, may teach their Magistrates and Councils, what value the Ministers of *France* put upon their ancient Rights and Priviledges, for those are the things the Ministers there, or

their

their Envoys under the name of Commissaries or Intendants, call in Derision Stories to make one Sleep, Illusions, and Old Wives Tales, that is, things nothing worth. If ever *France* come to the *Empire*, all the Cities of that Order are with *Metz*, *Toul*, and *Verdun*, and (last of all) *Bezanson* to denounce and disclaim all Rights of Justice, Magazines, Garrisons and Impositions, and to prepare themselves (at least all those that cannot, will be kept under otherwise) to see built in the highest place in the Town a strong Citadel at their Charge, and a Garrison put into it, which they must maintain, and consequently by degrees undergo, as well as all the Subjects of Princes, Earls, Barons, and particular Lords, and all Counts, Barons, and private Lords for their Estates in Land and all Necessaries for Life,

Life, with very little Exception, all the Impoſitions following.

Firſt upon Eſtates in Land, Money, and Trade.

Ayde, Octroy, Preciput, Equivalent, Crue, Taille, Eſtaſte, Subſiſtence de quartier d'hyver, Garinzons, Mortpayes, Appointments des Governeurs, Debtes & Affaires du Roy, Gratifications Extraordinaries, Den Gratuit, Frais de Reona uſemens & Contabilite.

More upon Drinks.

Aydes ſur le vin, Bieres, & Cidres, Plus le huitieme denier, Le Souquet, Le Patae, Impoſts & Billets.

[Inſtead of Cenſuring the Tranſlation imperfect, in giving the Names of theſe

Impoſitions (as in the Original) in *French*, let the Reader Congratulate his Happineſs, that very few of theſe *Moſt Chriſtian* Impoſitions have been Chriſtened in *England*, and therefore they want Names in our Language.]

More upon things Eatable.

The Gabelle on *Corn* and *Meal*, which is taken in Markets, or at the Mill, in ſeveral places, under the Name of *Meſure*, *Coupee*, or *Octroy*.

The Toll called *Pied Forchu*, taken for all ſorts of Beaſts, ſold in Fairs and Markets.

The Toll taken by Weight for every Pound of Meat ſold in the Shambles.

The *Gabelle* on *Salt*, which will raiſe the price of *Salt* ſo high

high, that what is now ſold for a Florin, will then coſt Fourteen Crowns.

More upon all Neceſſaries for Life.

The Mark of Paper, The Mark of Silver, The Mark of Tin, The Mark of Hats, The Mark on all Silk Stockins and Woollen, The Mark of Shoes, The Gabelle on Perukes, The Gabelle on Tobacco, The Mark on all Stuffs of Wooll or Silk, The Mark on Linnen, The Gabelle on Ice, The Control of Exploits.

More upon Noble Eſtates, from five Years, to five Years.

The Tax of free Fiefs, The Tax of new Purchaſes, The Fifths and Refifths, Amortiſſements.

More upon the Offices of Judicature and the Treasury.

The price of Valuation, The Mark of Gold, The two Sols in the Pound, The Seal duty, The Duty of Control, The Registers Duty, The Duty for Oaths, The Prest for being admitted to the Annual, The Annual or Paulette.

Besides many other Taxes to be paid from time to time, and many Retrenchments of Wages to be yearly undergone; for the Soveraign Courts have but three quarters Wages, the Subordinate but two, and the base or lowest Courts frequently but one.

Add to all these the *Reunion* to the King's *Demesnes*, newly Executed throughout *France* on all Commonalties or Corporations of the *Empire*, that is, all that

that belongs in Common to any Commonalty, as Fewel and Pasture in Woods and Forests, Rivers, Ponds, and all other Common Rights of what nature soever.

More on all sorts of Merchandises Imported or Exported.

The Custom. The Custom for the Value, The Foreign.

Besides the Custom of *Lions*, *Burdeaux* and *Roan*, which take their Names from the Places, and are levied with all Rigour imaginable, not only upon Importation into the Realm, or Exportation out of it into Foreign Countries, but in most of the Frontiers of the Provinces, upon passing out of one into another, within the Kingdom. And we may expect the like Exactions to

be eſtabliſhed in the ſeveral Provinces of the Empire, on ſeveral pretences.

All theſe Subſidies, and many others, (which, to avoid Prolixity, I paſs over in ſilence) are one way or other punctually paid, where-ever any Subjects of the *French* Monarchy live, with no other diſtinction, but that the Lords and Gentlemen have Right to hold free from Impoſition ſo many Acres of Land, for their Maintenance, as may be Huſbanded with two Yoke of Oxen, (provided the Owner hold that Eſtate in Demean) for as to what is let out to Farmers, as they pay the King Taxes for the profit of the Farms, they pay ſo much the leſs Rent to the Landlord; ſo that in effect the Nobleman in *France* pays Taxes as well as the Boor: Which the Princes, the Nobles, the Magiſtrates, and

Subjects

Subjects of the Empire, of what Degree ſoever, have reaſon ſeriouſly to conſider. For, 'tis folly to fancy they can make their Capitulations ſo advantageous as to exempt them from paying theſe intollerable Subſidies. The Provinces of *Guienne*, *Languedoc*, *Provence*, *Dauphine*, *Bourgundy*, and *Britain*, and moſt of the other Provinces of *France*, had heretofore their particular Princes, as moſt of the Provinces of the Empire now have; and the principal Cities and Towns in theſe Provinces of *France*, had then as great Privileges and Immunities as any Free Towns of the Empire: But the Kings of *France* having invaded all theſe Principalities, and ſeized the Liberties of the Cities, have, ſince the taking of *Rochel*, reduced them into ſo abſolute Slavery, that the Citizens and Inhabi-

tants have quite lost the Resolution and Generosity to endeavour a Recovery of their Liberties, and are so bridled with strong Garrisons and Citadels (and we may expect the like in all Countries of the Empire, if ever under a *French* Government) that they are not in a condition to stir, at least to any considerable purpose.

This may suffice for the first point: I pass to the Second.

The Second Point.

This deserves the more exact consideration, for that if ever the *Dauphin* be chosen King of the *Romans*, since the Court of *Rome* and the *Jesuits*, by the important Services these have done the Crown of *France* of late, and promise to do for the future, and the Cardinalships they flatter the Nephews and Relations of the

the principal Miniſters of *France* with the hopes of, do what they pleaſe in the Council of *France*; and what is publiſhed to the contrary, on the account of *Regalities*, now in controverſie, is but Cheat and Illuſion; the cruel perſecution raiſed and carried on ſome years laſt paſt againſt the Proteſtants of that Kingdom, the diſgrace of *Pompone*, being not of their Cabal, and of *Theatin* the Princeſs of *Bavaria*'s Confeſſor, intimating ſufficiently the extraordinary Credit that Society hath in the Court of *France*: I ſay, if ever the *Dauphin* be elected King of the *Romans*, the Empire is to expect two things. Firſt, To ſee him at the Head of the beſt Forces of *France*, (upon the ſpecious pretence of Religion, and reſtoring the Eſtates belonging to the Church) undertaking in the Em-

pire against the Protestant Party what *Charles* the Fifth, and *Ferdinand* the Second attempted to execute. Secondly, That this affair will be so obstinately fomented & protected by the Court of *Rome*, that the Empire will be in danger to be involved in a War more cruel, more bloody, and dangerous, than any the former Wars raised for that Cause. And there is reason enough to believe, that the late War, as well as the Peace since made, were hatched and carried on by the Court of *Rome*, in hopes of being able, by the Power of the *French* Forces, to work the entire Ruine of the Protestant Party of *Europe*, which we see every day decay by degrees: And I am much mistaken if the Money sent by the Pope into *Poland* was not design'd for a Project of this nature. Prince *William* of

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Furstenberg might, if he pleased, furnish us with clear Evidence of authentick *Memoirs* to this purpose; but we are not to expect it from him, lest by such a Discovery he lose the Recompence the Court of *Rome* delights him for the Pains he hath taken, and continues, to bring to effect this Popish Project in the Empire, and consequently in all *Europe*.

By what hath been said, your Highness may see the Fortune of the Empire, if ever it fall (by any means whatever) under the intolerable Yoke of the Despotical Government of *France*: And I think I need say no more to convince every Member of the Empire, and all the States of it in general, (without any great depth of Policy, or knowledge of War) what their Duty to Religion, their Glory and Interest oblige

oblige them to do, for preſerving themſelves from falling under a Yoke of that nature.

But to preſerve themſelves effectually from this Yoke, I conceive it extremely conſiderable to enquire firſt, Whence all this Miſchief proceeds? Which known, will give us light what muſt further be done: And particularly, from what Part the firſt Attack may be expected, and what Defence is to be made.

The Miſchiefs I have mentioned unqueſtionably have their riſe from the Deſigns and Fomentations of the Court of *Rome* and the *Jeſuits*, who (at preſent at leaſt) direct and diſpoſe of the *French* Projects and Forces, and without any Mercy or Reſpect, pretend, with the Aſſiſtance of thoſe Forces, and their own ſecret Managements of Affairs, to ſacrifice all to the Re-eſtabliſh-

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ment of the Papal Grandeur.

I conceive in Right and Juſtice two things are to be done; but I doubt much whether the one will be. The firſt is, That ſince the Publick Good and Safety of the Empire conſiſts in living (without Inovation) according to the Ancient Rights, Immunities, and Priviledges, and the Concordats eſtabliſhed by Law, (which every Member of the Empire is obliged to obſerve) and that the Pretenſions of the Court of *Rome* and the *Jeſuits*, are as inconſiſtent as thoſe of *France*, with the Publick Good and ſafety of the Empire: Every Member of the Empire, without flattering themſelves any longer with hopes of Favour from *Rome* or from *France*, and without diſtinction of Religion, applying themſelves ſeriouſly to procure and promote the Preſervation

vation and Publick Good of the Empire, ſhould without delay take ſuch Meaſures, that neither the Court of *Rome*, the *Jeſuits*, nor *France*, may attain ther Ends. And in order to this, That every Member of the Empire ſhould put it ſelf into a Poſture and Condition, by uniting their Forces, to oppoſe Force to Force: And if the Princes of the *Roman* Communion will *Bona fide* engage in this Union, it will be neceſſary, firſt, That his Imperial Majeſty find means to gain the Amity and Aſſiſtance of the three Northern Princes whom I have formerly mentioned, engag'd in War by his means, and afterwards cruelly abandon'd to the Mercy of *France* and of *Swede*: Which (by the ſmall Intelligence I have of Affairs) will be difficult enough to effect, eſpecially with the Elector

ctor of *Brandenburgh*, without giving him satisfaction in two Points, on which he doth with much Equity insist. Secondly, That his Imperial Majesty gain over to the Interests of the Empire the Forces of the Crown of *Swede*; which will be no easie Task. Thirdly, That the Emperour, and all the Princes of the *Roman* Communion in the Empire, banish and root out of their Councils not onely all *Jesuits* and *Monks*, (who by themselves or their Superiors have all Resort to their General at *Rome*) but every one that any way depends on, or hath Society with these Hypocrites, or rather Free Spies of the Empire; a *Capuchin* in this particular being as bad as a *Jesuit*. Though this be absolutely necessary, as Matters now stand, yet (to speak freely) I very much doubt whether the Princes

of

of the *Roman* Communion will have the Generosity and Courage to do it.

The Second, and that I take to be the only solid means, is, That the *Protestant* Party being now clearly convinc'd that they are the sole Persons aim'd at, and that all that hath been done since the beginning of the last War was really in order onely to work their Destruction; all Kings, Princes, and Magistrates of that persuasion, are every one in his Sphere to apply themselves with all industry and vigour, first, To Arm with all their Power, that they may be able to oppose Force to Force: Secondly, To enter into mutual Leagues and Alliances, that by joynt Strength they may resist Forces so considerable as those of *France*, and others the Court of *Rome* and the *Jesuits* may by their

their Artifices bring over to that party. To begin so great and necessary a Work, we will for a while leave the Territories of the Empire; and looking abroad, I am of opinion that *England* and the *United Provinces* ought without further delay to use all means possible to enter into a League Offensive and Defensive, which may (if possible) be indissoluble; That *Denmark* and *Swede* are to follow that Example; and That all the *Protestant Princes* and States of the Empire, with the *Protestant* Cantons of the *Swisses* and the *Grisons*, ought to do the like: For, 'tis not a Concern of particular Quarrels and Jealousies, but the Faith, the Religion and Temporal Estates of all the *Protestant* Party are now at stake. This I conceive will be more easily effected in this Conjuncture, for that by a special

special Providence of God there is no War at present between *England* and *Holland*, nor between *Swede* and *Denmark*, nor between the Princes of the *Protestant* Communion in *Germany*. If these three things be effected, and the particular Leagues incorporated into a General, and consequently, an intire Union of the *Protestants of Europe*, we need not fear the Designs or Attempts of the Court of *Rome*, or the *Jesuits*, or the Counsel and Forces of the *French*: for (these things effected) we shall have power enough not only to deliver the Empire from all just apprehensions of the Designs of the Court of *Rome*, the *Jesuits*, and of *France*, against its Liberties, but to reduce his *Most Christian Majesty* (by way of justice & right) to keep himself modestly within the Frontiers of his Kingdom, and (in case of Refusal)

fual) to do something more; which would infallibly produce a sure and general Peace.

I am the more induced to be of this Opinion, while *England* and *Holland* on the one hand, and *Swede* and *Denmark* on the other, are labouring to put an end to all former Quarrels; and the *Protestant* Princes and Magistrates of the Empire endeavour (as I suppose) a League with the *Protestant* Cantons and the *Grisons*, that (to say the truth) I see no other solid and effectual Means to defend the Empire from the Oppression of *France*, and the *Protestant* Party in particular from the Oppression of the Court of *Rome*, the *Jesuits*, and *France*, all at once: For, (to rid our Hands of all false Maxims at once) What else can the Empire and *Protestant* Party reasonably ground their Safety upon?

on? Will they ground it on His Imperial Majesty, as they ought, and without doubt might have done, had his Council been guided with right and sound Maxims? I cannot think, after all that his Council have caused him to do publickly, and what he still continues to put in Execution against the *Protestant* party, that any rational person of that party can expect the least Favour on that side, at least as long as the *Jesuits* and Court of *Rome* have that Credit, that Countenance and Support they have now in his Court. And that we have little reason to hope this Prince will rid himself of them, who have dangerously corrupted his Understanding and Reason, by their Education of him, and the prejudices instilled into him. And should the *Protestants* on this occasion expect help

from

from the Court of *Austria*, as their Interest in the Empire obliges them, we may very well imagine the Expectation will be vain, if we consider the late strict Alliance of that Court with *France*, or the ridiculous Monastick Bigotry reigning in that Court. If then you will rely on the Ecclesiastical Princes, who knows not their Disability, and that the greater part of them will do nothing but what the *Jesuits* shall insinuate into them?

So that for the future (as well as the time past, at least, for the last Age, and more) the Natural Defence of the Empire hath (under God) no solid Ground, but the Forces and Industry of the *Protestant* Party. It was that Party saved it from the intended Oppression of the House of *Austria* in former times: And in

the late War, when *France* attempted to Master it by its Arms and Intrigues, it was the ſame Party not only preſerved the Empire, but the Emperor, from the Yoke of the *French*. And it will be the ſame Party which (by the Grace of God) ſhall eaſily preſerve it for the future; at leaſt, if the Potentates of that Party, or the greater part of them, apply themſelves to do what I conceive they are obliged to.

But to ſpeak plainly, and make appear the neceſſity of ſuch a *Proteſtant* League and Confederacy, we are to conſider; His Imperial Majeſty will either effectually perform what he ought in defence of the Empire, by ſaving himſelf from falling under the Dominion of *France*; or that he will do nothing but in ſhew and appearance.

If

If His Imperial Majesty perform as he ought, against the Enterprises of *France*, such a League can never be more seasonably made to second the Imperial Forces, nor can His Imperial Majesty in that case rely on any Forces (the Nature of the Quarrel considered) that will be more true to him than those of the *Protestants*.

But if His Imperial Majesty intend meerly to look on, as unconcerned, and not to engage really and effectually against the *French* Designs, which he is so highly concerned to oppose, there can be no doubt, but the Court of *Rome* and the *Jesuits* have secretly carried on a close Intelligence and private League between their Imperial and Most Christian Majesties, for the Ruin and Destruction of the *Protestant* Party; and, That by some

private and mysterious Stipulation, some *Protestant* Estate in the Empire, or on the Frontiers, in the *Low Countries*, or *Switzerland*, is, according to their Project, designed a Recompence to the Duke of *Lorrain*, for the Dukedoms of *Lorraine* and *Barre*, which *France* hath taken from him, and hath no mind to restore. And by a captious Contrivance of this nature, the *Protestant* Party in the Empire shall find it self at once assaulted by the united Forces of their Imperial and Most Christian Majesties (who are both of a Communion.) I leave to your Highness to judge, how much it concerns the *Protestant* party, by the Industry and Union I have mentioned, to prevent so great and dangerous an Inconvenience.

My Suspicion of His Imperial Majesty is the greater, for that it

it is notorious there are in the Society of *Jesuits* Men of several sorts; some of whom are dispenced with not onely to lay aside the Habit of their Order, but to Marry, and bear all sorts of Offices and Dignities: And that if his Imperial Majesty was in his younger days, out of too great a zeal for his Religion, unhappily engag'd in this Order, under the Dispensations I suppose, there is no cause left for wonder at his Proceedings against the *Protestants*: For, though he had been but of the *Lower Order*, which is that wherein Marriage is permitted, and a Capacity allowed of bearing Offices and Dignities; yet as to all other things, and particularly in matters of Religion, he must have been under the Obedience of the General of the *Jesuites*, and consequently obliged to make Peace and War,

as the General of the Society ſhould judge moſt convenient for the Intereſt of the Pope and the Society. The continual War this Prince makes againſt the *Proteſtants* of *Upper Hungary*, contrary to all the Maxims and Rules of ſound Policy, and contrary to the Priviledges (one of his Miniſters told me, and I am otherwiſe well aſſured) he hath ſworn to that Nation; the vaſt Gifts he hath beſtowed on the Society in *Bohemia*, *Sileſia*, *Hungary*, *Moravia*, and generally in all his Hereditary Countries; with his ſhameful ſigning the late Peace, in prejudice, and contrary to all his Treaties with the *Proteſtant* Princes, ſmells rankly of an Obedience which acknowledges no Obligation, nor owns any Rule of Juſtice or Piety, other than the abſolute Command of his Superior. And I ſee no-

thing

thing in this Prince, as to his manner of Living, and constant Attendance at *Jesuitical* Comedies, Musick, and Pilgrimages, sometimes to one Relique, sometimes to another, with all that may make out his natural or acquir'd inclinations, that may any way convince this Opinion of mistake.

So that if it be so, (as to speak the truth) I very much suspect it is; and I am not alone in this Suspicion: I leave it to the Judgment of the Empire in general, and the Protestants in particular, what ground they have to relie on, or expect any Succour or Assistance from the Head of the Empire: For, in case this prove true, should his Imperial Majesty promise and design effectually to assist the Protestants, in defence of the Common Liberty; yet if on the contrary the Gene-

ral of the Society ſhould order him, for ſome greater Good, (which, according to their Maxims, conſiſts frequently in a Maſſacre, a Poyſoning, or Aſſaſſination) to joyn at a preciſe Day and place his Arms to thoſe of *France*, for the entire extirpation of the Proteſtant Party in the Empire, there is no doubt but this Prince would be obliged to do it, either on the account of Obedience due to his General, or for fear the Society, in caſe of his diſobedience, ſhould diſpatch him, as they did by themſelves or their Emiſſaries *Henry* the Third and Fourth in *France*, Don *Carlos* in *Spain*, Duke *Bernard* of *Weymar* in *Germany*, and lately the Illuſtrious Princeſs of *Inſpruck*, ſecond Wife of that Prince, the laſt Duke of *Brieg* in *Sileſia*: or as they have newly attempted to do againſt his Majeſty of

Great

Great Britain. For Incendiaries, Aſſaſſins, and Murderers are the faithful Servants and inſeperable Inſtruments of that bleſſed Society. Your Highneſs will not be ſurpriz'd at the vehement Suſpicion I have expreſt of his Imperial Majeſty, when you have conſidered, there have been two Kings of *Poland* of that Order, and that *Philip* the Second of *Spain* did (out of Policy) cauſe himſelf to be enrolled amongſt them. But the Order of the *Jeſuits* is compos'd (as others) of two ſorts of People, whom Politicians diſtinguiſh by the Names of *Directors* and *Directed*: And we are to obſerve, the two Kings of *Poland* were in this latter Claſs. The former, by promoting too zealouſly the Paſſions of the Society, having loſt the Kingdom of *Swede*, to which he was Heir; and the ſecond having by the

ſame-

ſame means incurred the irreconcileable hatred and averſion of the Nobility of *Poland*, to ſo extream a degree, that to avoid the threatning Effects of it, he was forced at laſt to quit his Crown, from a Sovereign to become a Subject, and go end his days in a ſtrange Country, with no better a Character than that of *Abbot of St. German* in *France*. But as for *Philip* the Second (ſetting matter of Conſcience aſide) conſidering him onely in quality of a Politician, I boldly aſſign him a Place in the Claſs of *Directors*; for he *directed* his Affairs ſo well, he miſt but little of ſubduing *France*, and effectually ſeiſed the Crown of *Portugal*, and the *Eaſt-Indies* as an Appurtenant. I am oblig'd, by the Reſpect I bear his Imperial Majeſty, to leave it to your Highneſs to think which of the two

Claſſes

Classes he is to be rank'd in.

But whether his Imperial Majesty be a Member of this Society, or not, I have said enough to make appear to your Highness the absolute necessity of a League and Confederacy between the Protestant Powers of *Europe*, to enable them to defend themselves against the pernicious Designs of their Enemies. I will conclude with minding your Highness, That this is the Occasion that calls upon you, to shew to all the World your zeal for your Religion, and the Good of the Publick; And that since my longer stay in this Court will be useless, your Highness will do me the Favour to permit me to leave it as soon as may be, that I may have the honour to wait on your Most Serene Person, and continue the performance of my most humble Services.

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Services. To that happy time I reſpite acquainting you with many Particulars I dare not truſt to Paper, (though altogether confirming what I have moſt confidently affirmed, as to the moſt Eſſential Points of my Letter.) And in hopes to receive ſpeedily the honour of your Commands to that purpoſe, which I humbly beg, I remain with all due Reſpects,

My Lord,

Your Serene Highneſſes

moſt humble Servant, &c.

Prague,
13 Febr.
1680.

FINIS.